



# Maturango News

Preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert.  
100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Ridgecrest Petroglyph Festival  
Nov 5 & 6.  
Various events at the museum.

10 am – 5 pm every day. 760.375.6900 [www.maturango.org](http://www.maturango.org)  
Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

## Museum Director’s Notes

*Debbie Benson, Museum Director*

Thankfulness is a factor in our daily survival and our appreciation of this place we live and the friendships around us. Each day, finding a reason for thankfulness makes what we have hold greater value. Our ability to share makes those who work at the Museum, as volunteers and as staff, find greater joy in the everyday. If you have a skill or would like to share your time with us there are many ways to do it! The gift shop, the garden, the website, planning events, filing papers, being a docent, being a friend... the list is endless and the benefits are, too. It’s another way to be thankful for the community we live in. November is a time that reminds us that even if the gift is simple, shared from one person to another, it’s something to be thankful for.

We have different people and groups we connect with throughout the year. Some are for the big events that define us to the public, like the Petroglyph Festival on the first weekend of November. The Petroglyph Education Foundation is still an active part of the Festival and our docents provide activities to encourage knowledge not just during the festival but throughout the year. Another group we are thankful for not only for knowledge of desert planting and gardening but also for our beautiful centerpieces at our Dinner Auction, is the Oasis Garden Club. They are a great resource and always resourceful... We thank them for much!

We have much to be thankful for and we appreciate each person who comes in to the Museum, visits and shares their history and ours. As we all begin the holiday season, our best to all. Take care!

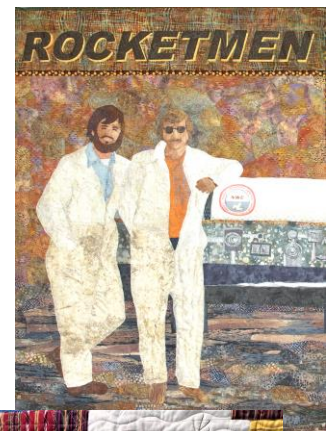
### Quilt Exhibit – “Desert Wonderland”

November 5 – December 31, 2022

Opening Reception –

Sunday, November 20, 3 – 5pm.

The Hi Desert Quilt Guild members range in age from 6 years to 96+ years; they are artists as well as quilters, beginners as well as accomplished quilters. They contribute to non-profit organizations with quilts, Christmas stockings, and pillow cases. The guild members continue to learn new techniques through speakers and workshops from quilters around the world. New members are always welcome. We meet the first Thursday of each month (except July) at 6:30 pm at the USO Building. Come join the fun!



## **Earthquake and Geology Field Trip**

Guided by Glenn Harris, Natural Resources Specialist

Saturday, November 12

Many of us were here for the earthquake sequence in July 2019 in the Indian Wells Valley and Salt Wells Valley. We experienced a swarm of earthquakes including a magnitude 6.4 on July 4, 2019 and a magnitude 7.1 on July 5, 2019. Damage included over 3 billion dollars on the China Lake Navy Base. Many have documented the damages from the earthquake. For this field trip the emphasis will be on what happened geologically.

We will start at the Maturango Museum with an introduction to the geology of the area and discussion of the geological event and what it did to the landscape. Then we will caravan to a site in the south east portion of the Indian Wells Valley. This part of the day's activities will take about 3.5 hours finishing around 12:30pm.

Meet at 8:30am at the Museum for a 25 minute introductory presentation and check in; participants will be required to sign liability waiver. Car caravan will be organized and carpools encouraged. We will need to limit the group to around ten vehicles.

\$35 per person or \$60 for 2 people. Maturango Museum members receive an additional \$5 off per member. Families encouraged. Sign up in museum store or [www.maturango.org](http://www.maturango.org)

You'll need the usual field trip items: Full tank of gas, car and tires in good running order. High clearance vehicle recommended, (4x4 not necessary), hat, sunscreen, comfortable walking shoes, layered clothing, water, camera, binoculars, etc.

At the first several stops we will observe numerous fissures in the ground caused by the 6.4 earthquake on July 4, 2019. We will be able to observe deep cracks, the alignment of the escarpment, evidence of past earthquakes and see the location of the epicenter from a distance. We will be able to observe where the natural gas pipeline to Ridgecrest was threatened. In addition we can observe where the fissure has split a hill and is located in existing depressions.

From there we will travel east to the site of the fissure caused by the 7.1 earthquake on July 5, 2019. Most of the trace of the 7.1 earthquake is located on the NAWA base. The epicenter is located on the base many miles north west of the site we can visit. Horizontal and vertical movement on the base was nearly 15 feet. We will be able to observe 3 foot vertical and horizontal offsets.

The final stop will be along highway 178. At this site, the Searles Valley water pipeline broke as a result of the 7.1 event. We will also be able to observe the offset in the Navy fence and the trace of the breakage. That will be the last formal part of the presentation and participants can return to Ridgecrest (about 12 miles) on Highway 178 (Trona Road).

## **Hanning Flat Volunteer Day**

Saturday, November 5, 9am - noon and Open House noon - 3pm

The dog days of summer have ended, and the Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation is ready to work on some outdoor projects. We are hoping that you can join us to help install artificial burrows for burrowing owls at Hanning Flat. To show appreciation for our volunteers, I would like to offer a guided birding session that morning 7 – 9 am. If you are interested in birding, please let me know so I can plan accordingly. See [www.krvhf.org/](http://www.krvhf.org/) for contact information.

Please bring gloves, water, a shovel, and your favorite weeding tool. Please let me know if you can help out at the work party.

If you are interested in staying for the Open House, please bring a lunch. We will be offering various guided hikes in the area and will be happy to share any information we have on the history and natural history of Hanning Flat.

## Tree Phones in the Forest? By Barbara Bane, Archeology Curator

Last month I wrote about Cannell Guard Station and mentioned that the Forest Service once had telephones and lines linking the Sequoia cabins and fire lookouts. This month I'm showing an example of a Forest Service "tree phone" I found in August while horse packing in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, Montana. The Sequoia phones were probably the same model, a standard across the various U.S. forests.



This sturdy artifact is located far off the beaten path in Danaher Meadows, Flathead National Forest, maybe twenty miles from the nearest road. The wires are down, but you can still crank the ringer and get the bell going.

The phone appears to be a Western Electric Model 1336 (Western Electric Telephone Apparatus Catalog No. 10, 1939). The earliest models date to 1906, about the time rangers began to build trails in the South Fork drainage of Flathead National Forest. These cast iron mine phones, first patented for the mining industry, adapted well for outdoor use.



Eliminating gaskets or rubber seals for waterproofing, the box used gutters around the closures and a drain at the bottom. Wiring entrance at the top was protected by a curved pipe "ram's horn" casing. Small openings allowed air to circulate in the box and all parts were designed to be impermeable to moisture. A strong latch kept the door closed tightly when not in use.

How did it work? The unit is a hand cranked telephone magneto. Turning the handle rotated a large gear that caused faster rotations on a small gear on an armature motor. The alternating current produced signaled a ring on the other phones on the party line or a switchboard at headquarters. The number of rings cranked by the user indicated the code for the individual forest stations. Two dry cell batteries encased deep within the box produced talking current for a carbon microphone (the speaking mouthpiece attached to the interior). Batteries needed yearly changing.

Number 9 galvanized wire connected the phone system along trails and roads. Three-man crews hung the wires: the line locator marked the route, a second man selected and blazed the hang trees, and the third man marked the best side of the hang for the wire mounts. Mule or horse pack strings dropped heavy reels of wire along the route every 1/4 mile. Two men pulled the wire along the route, while the third man tended the reel. Before mounting, the climbers de-limbed the tree trunks to twenty feet, then pulled the line high after the ground man attached the insulators. Some slack in the line allowed for tree fall without severing the connection. Despite this, telephone line maintenance was always a big spring chore for rangers.

Thanks to Remco Enthoven and Paul Wills of Telephone Collectors International for identifying the Danaher phone model for me. Kathryn McKay's [Historical Overview of the Flathead National Forest](#) (USFS 1994) provided detailed accounts of early life on the South Fork. If you'd like to see more examples of vintage Forest Service phones, retired Ranger John Newman created a display at our sister museum, Kern Valley Museum in Kernville. If you have recollections or photos of the long-gone Sequoia NF tree phones, I'd like to hear about it. Contact me at [barb@maturango.org](mailto:barb@maturango.org).



## Docent Doings

*By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator*

Docent programs have returned. We've been out to present 4 programs on bats and one on art. Shirley Crouse presented a program on Ridgecrest history and Glenn Harris presented a program on mining history of the area. Many of us presented a program on Petroglyphs/Native Americans to some of the Heartland students.

Our free Saturday activity on Bats was very well attended. Visitors created a bat headband as well as two other bat projects. Ten docents met the week before to cut out and prepare all the pieces for these crafts using TP rolls and black paper coffee cups. Visitors had an opportunity to see our bat specimens including a pallid, Mexican-free tail, and a hoary bat. Our hoary bat specimen is mounted with wings outspread so it is easy to understand why bats are named Chiroptera, meaning hand-wings.



Children's Hour is back. The docents were excited to present the Gingerbread Cowboy and Barn Dance as the two stories. Activities included riding stick horses and doing a line dance. Nick Rogers was our special cowboy guest! Charlotte Goodson, Susan Prazak, Sue Parker, Debbie Hillis, Tina Rockdale, Susan Woodman, Judy Breitenstein, Shirley Crouse, Shirley Helmick, Susan Moore and Ingrid Carroll created a wonderful hour. Special thanks to Debbie Benson for assisting with the computer.

At our October meeting we were happy to welcome some new docents; Debbie Hillis, Tina Rockdale, and Sarah Wersan. We also welcomed Debbie Pio back to the group.

We've just added a very cute kit fox to our collection of specimens to take to classrooms.

Docents will offer activities at the Museum during the Petroglyph festival on the first weekend in November.

On Friday November 18, 10:30 – 11:30 am, we will present the next Children's Hour with the theme of Hibernation. Watch our Facebook page and website for more details! Our programs are designed for children aged 3 to 5 years. Activities do bring everyone in close contact with one another. Because the children's well-being is necessarily a primary concern, we are requiring pre-registration. Sign up by calling the Museum at (760) 375-6900. Space is limited. Museum store hours: 10am - 5 pm. Children of all ages can be registered to participate. We feel confident that with the family members help, we can all contribute to a healthy and enjoyable experience for everyone.



## Behind the Scenes at Kern County Museum

Tuesday, November 15

Join Maturango Museum for a peek behind the curtain at your County Museum in Bakersfield. The museum is closed that day, so we'll get a private tour with the Museum Director over the extensive grounds, home to over 50 historic buildings from Kern's past, as well as Merle Haggard's childhood home, oil derricks, and trains! Afterwards, the Collection Curator will give us a behind-the-scenes look at the museum's large collection of historical and archeological artifacts. We finish the day with an early afternoon lunch at a Bakersfield establishment, the famous Wool Growers Basque restaurant.

Meet at Maturango Museum at 8am; carpool to Kern County Museum, arrive by 9:30am.

\$30 per person (optional Wool Growers lunch not included, lunch menu prices range from \$14-\$36). Flat walking on sidewalks and easy paths; suitable for mobility limited.

Buy tickets at [shop.maturango.org](http://shop.maturango.org), in the gift shop or call 760- 375-6900. Limit 15; you must indicate by Nov. 11 if you wish to be included in the lunch reservation. Please make sure you leave an updated email address at either purchase location.

## Donations in October 2022

### Donations

Margaret Anderson  
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Cindy White  
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### In Honor of Elaine Wiley Elizabeth Babcock

### In Honor of Museum

#### Volunteers

Debbie Benson

### In Memory of Barbara Auld

Debbie Benson

### In Memory of Peggy Busch

Debbie Benson

### In Memory of Chuck Cordell

Debbie Benson

### In Memory of Colleen

#### Simmons

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Terri Wright

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Debbie Benson

### Sign

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Diane Foucher

Robert and Tiana McGowan

### New Members

Annie G. Blanc

Randy Coleman

Michelle Duncan

Betty Kobler

Anas Mahafzah

Brian Norden

## **“In My Backyard”** – photographs by Michael Walsten

Have you seen lots of grasshoppers this past month? According to a number of news articles, grasshoppers are numerous this year due to the warm and dry weather. When insects are so numerous, it's hard not to notice them. But have you noticed what other different animals live or pass through your yard? Michael Walsten noticed and took it a step further by spending hours photographing the variety of animals in his backyard. The yard has a bird feeder, hummingbird feeder, mature trees, bird and insect attracting plants, and a wildlife habitat of branches and twigs that provide protection and shelter thereby creating a good habitat for both local and migratory animals.

The “locals” that reside in Michael's backyard include cottontail rabbits, quail, lizards, ground squirrels, hummingbirds and insects. Migratory birds including the Northern Flicker, The Black-headed Grosbeak, and the Western Tanager stop by seasonally. Some butterflies migrate as well and are attracted to the flowers. In all, Michael has photographed 18 different species of animals including insects.

These exceptional and beautiful photographs are on display at the Maturango Museum in the Argus Room. It's well worth the visit!



## Presentations by Author and Illustrator Deborah A. Fox

Saturday, November 5 at noon and 2 p.m.

Deborah will speak about pioneer William Lewis Manly, who heroically saved two lost families from starvation in Death Valley, and the importance and meaning of hero stories in our lives.

The Heroic Story of William Lewis Manly, Death Valley '49er and Gold Rush Pioneer will be presented at noon. At 2pm will be the presentation "On the Trail of William Lewis Manly: A Travelogue of the Death Valley '49er" including photos incorporated into her graphic novel, "The Man Who Beat Death Valley".

Fox is a mixed-media artist and author who works in digital art, computer graphics and effects, painting and photography. She uses all of her talents in her latest passion, graphic novel creation.

"The Man Who Beat Death Valley" is the first time the story of the Death Valley '49ers is presented in the popular graphic novel format, and has won a North Street Book Prize for graphic novels. The book captures the stunning Western landscape and tells a thrilling, true story of struggle, love, and survival.

A few photos from the Annual Dinner and Auction October 1, 2022

Thank You to everyone that joined the festivities and volunteered to "work" the event.



## **Maturango Museum of the IWV**

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Open every day (except major holidays)

10 am – 5 pm

### **Staff**

Debbie Benson, Museum Director  
Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer  
Barbara Bane, M.A., RPA, Archaeology  
Curator  
Elaine Wiley, History Curator  
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator  
Julie Stephens, Finance Manager  
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator,  
Newsletter Editor  
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator  
Linda Saholt, Petroglyph Tour Coord.,  
Membership, Donations  
Leslie Layfield, Accounting Bookkeeper  
Kelly Goff, Museum Assistant  
Deanna Stewart, Museum Assistant  
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant  
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant

### **Committee Chairpersons**

Dan Burnett, Building  
Elaine Wiley, Publications  
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning

### **Board of Trustees**

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Renee Lesniak - Secretary  
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## Upcoming Events

- Petroglyph Weekend events at the museum...
  - Deborah Fox Presentations: Saturday, November 5 at noon and 2 p.m.
  - Docent show-and-tell and activities both days.
  - "Mike the Flint-napper" will be here both days demonstrating his talents.
- Earthquake and Geology Field Trip: Saturday, November 12
- Behind the Scenes at Kern County Museum Field Trip: Tuesday, Nov. 15
- Quilt Guild Exhibit: Coso Room Nov. 5 – Dec. 31.
  - Opening Reception: Sunday Nov. 20, 3 – 5pm.



*Save the Date: Friday December 2nd, 6 - 9pm*

### *Grown-Up Shopping Night*

*The Museum gift store will be open extended hours for holiday shopping.*

*Enjoy light refreshments, an alcoholic beverage, and door prizes.*

*While we do love kids, this is a night for you.*

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